



B.A.R.G. NEWS

The official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. (#6953T)
CLUB ROOMS
BALLARAT AIRPORT
UNIT 31
P.O. BOX 1261
MAIL CENTRE
BALLARAT VIC 3364

AUGUST 2002

MEETING DATES

At Club Rooms 8pm start

August 30th. (AGM)

September 27th.

October 25th.

November 29th.

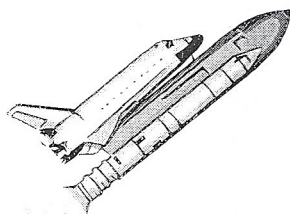
Volume 25 Number 8



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SUCCESSSES FOR IAN – VK3AXH

The July edition of Amateur Radio magazine revealed some pleasant and very welcome news for Ian VK3AXH and rewards for his concerted efforts in recent contests.

In the **Summer Field Day VHF Contest** held over the weekend of 12th and 13th January, which is conducted over 7 bands, Ian competed on only 3 bands and compiled the great total of 1417 points and finished 4th in the Single Operator / 6 hour section. This was a great result, considering that the first 3 placegetters gained their highest points on 23cm where Ian did not compete.

The **Ross Hull Memorial VHF Contest** was held during 26th December 2001 and January 13th 2002 in a period of rather poor propagation.

Once again Ian put in a first class effort to finish 3rd in the **Best 7 days** section working on 4 bands and collecting 822 points.

He was able to follow this with a commendable fourth place in the **Best 2 days** section with a total of 501 points, again working on 4 bands.

Our congratulations go to Ian for a fine effort, and his success will hopefully encourage other members to 'have a go' in future contests.

Tnx to Doug VK3VBA.

(See Ian's report on the Remembrance Day Contest – Page 6)

ADVICE FOR THIS MONTH: *Be nice to your kids – They'll be choosing your Nursing Home.*



Inc. # 6953T

OFFICE BEARERS – 2001 / 2002



COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT	GEOFFREY SMITH	VK3ADB	VALERIE	5345 8387
VICE PRESIDENT	GORDON CORNELL	VK3FGC	HELEN	5339 2427
SECRETARY	TOM GEORGE	VK3DMK	ELAINE	5333 2770
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MEMBER'S REP.	DOUG RAPER	VK3VBA	VAL	5332 3565
MEMBER'S REP.	CHARLIE STEWART	VK3DCS	SHIRLEY	5331 7425
MEMBER'S REP.	IAN LLOYD	VK3HFK	DEBBIE	5331 1480
MEMBER'S REP.	STEVEN DICK	VK3MNA	MARY	5331 5526
MEMBER'S REP.	PETER DIPROSE	VK3KDP	MARION	5339 9928
MEMBER'S REP.				

OFFICERS

QSL MANAGER	DARYL QUIRK	VK3XDQ	WENDY	5476 2689
EDUCATION OFFICER	TOM GEORGE	VK3DMK	ELAINE	5333 2770
TECHNICAL OFFICER	BOB TERRILL	VK3BNC	BETTY	5339 5317
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	NORM D'ANGRI	VK3LBA	VAL	5334 1613
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AWARDS MANAGER	REG CARTER	VK3CAZ	SHELAGH	5341 7585
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EXAMINATION OFFICER	CHARLIE STEWART	VK3DCS	SHIRLEY	5331 7425
MEMBER REGISTRAR	NORM D'ANGRI	VK3LBA	VAL	5334 1613
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PROPERTY OFFICER	JEFF PIGDON	VK3PAP	LYN	5332 7041
WICEN STATE CO-ORD.	GORDON CORNELL	VK3FGC	HELEN	5339 2427
HAMVENTION CO-ORD.	STEVEN DICK	VK3MNA	MARY	5331 5526
SCRAMBLE CO-ORD.	REG CARTER	VK3CAZ	SHELAGH	5341 7585
AMENITIES COMMITTEE	SHIRLEY STEWART	SWL	CHARLIE	5331 7425
	SHELAGH CARTER	SWL	REG	5341 7585
	BETTY TERRILL	XYL	BOB	5339 5317
	MARY CURNOW	VK3FMC	DICK	5330 1927
	PAT ALLAN	XYL	CLEM	5348 7709
	VALERIE SMITH	XYL	GEOFFREY	5345 8387

BARG REPEATERS

VK3RBA	VOICE	146.750 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	VOICE	147.100 MHz	Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	PACKET	144.750 MHz	Mt. Warrenheip
VK3RBU	VOICE	438.475 MHz	Mt. Hollowback.
VK3RMB	BEACON	432.535 MHz	Mt. Buninyong
VK3RBV	ATV	426.250 MHz	Ballarat

BARG LIFE MEMBERS

VK3CFB	JIM WRIGHT
VK3AXH	IAN MC.DONALD
VK3WN	KEVIN HUGHES
exVK3AQM	PHIL SEDDON

10M NET™: Tuesday Nights 8 pm.
28.475 mHz

ACTIVITIES

CLUB NET: Thursday Nights at 8 pm. (8.30 pm during Daylight Saving.) Freq.: 3.610 MHz +/- QRM.

MEETINGS: General Meeting : Last Friday each month (except December) at 8.00 pm. at Club Rooms.

CLUB ROOMS : Ballarat Airport – Unit 31 – (Off Learmonth Road) Ballarat.

HAMVENTION : Last weekend in October (2002 – 27th October.) **FOXHUNTING:** 5/6th October

CONSTRUCTION DAYS : Saturday afternoons at clubrooms - 1 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE TO: The Secretary. BARG Inc.. BOX 1261 MAIL CENTRE. BALLARAT 3354

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO: Norm D'Angri (VK3LBA). 29 Lawrence St. Alfredton Vic. 3350

email: <nda@vic.australis.com.au>

B.A.R.G. HOMEPAGE: www.barg.org.au

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The Minutes - 26th July 2002

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP inc, Minutes 26th July 2002

Meeting opened at 8:02pm by Geoff VK3ADB

Apologies: CAZ, Sheilah, BVI, Pat, YNB, AIG, CFH, BNC, VBA

DCS/FGC

Minutes: As read in newsletter.

AXH/FGC

Correspondence IN; XDQ, ABI, BQC, LBA, WL, Neighborhood Cable, Origin, Newsletters
OUT: MNA, KAY

CIS/FGC

Treasurers Report: As tabled.

DMK/HFK

Education: Three candidates doing well. DMK

Tech: All going well, RWA some problems

VK3KAY situation to be monitored.

AXH

Hamvention: Gordon to check on trestle problem.

Club Net 12 operators on last net.

IRLP Going Well, avoid Las Vegas Nodes due to high Internet load.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Committee request that all club equipment that members are borrowing, be bought to the Annual General Meeting. FGC

RD Contest, Ian AXH will be at club rooms for contest period.

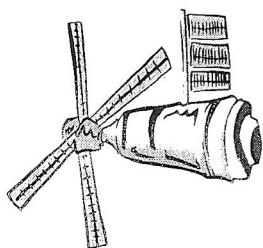
Presidents board to be bought up to date.

Notice board at front of rooms to be updated.

DON'T FORGET...BARG's NET frequency on 10M, 28.475 MHz, so members can chat, use at anytime, Tuesday Nights 8:00pm net call in.

Meeting Closed 9:00pm.

If you are riding ahead of the herd, take a look back now and again to make sure that the herd is still there !!! - Will Rogers.



Daryl's Space

Articles supplied by Daryl – VK3XDQ - Tnx Darryl

POLE ON THE MOVE ?

The Magnetic North Pole could soon leave Canadian territory and migrate North of Alaska, eventually winding up in Russia.

This is the prediction of one scientist who says that the Pole, which has steadily drifted for decades, has picked up speed in recent years.

He claims that at it's current speed it could exit Canada as soon as 2004, and if it follows it's present course, it will pass North of Alaska and arrive in Siberia within half a century.

Amateur Radio Newslines.

SUB LAUNCHES SHUTTLE

A Russian nuclear submarine, on July 12th, successfully launched a unique mini-space shuttle capable of delivering cargo to the International Space Station and safely returning to Earth.

Space Daily

HOT ROCKS

Three employees of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston and another man, were charged by the F.B.I. For an alleged plot to sell stolen Moon Rocks from the Apollo missions for \$1,000 to \$5,000 a gram.

Space News

DOOM OR BOOM ?

Scare stories are popping up in the media and around the Internet about a newfound asteroid that could possibly hit the Earth in 2019 and create doom on a large scale.

Many of us have been here before, and we can assure you that right now you should be far more frightened of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Space News

GOLIATH TELESCOPE

A group of European astronomers and engineers are currently planning to cast a new heavyweight into the observation ring.

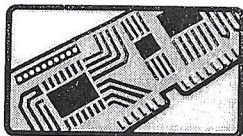
They are planning, and intend to construct an **Optical** telescope larger than a football field.

Space Com.

SUGGESTED READING

- *The Cliff Tragedy* by Eileen Dover.
- *Holidays in Britain* by A. Pauline Weather.
- *A Hole in the Bucket* by Lee King
- *The Ghost in the Attic* by Howie Wailes.
- *Tea for Two* by Roland Butta
- *Rocket to the Sun* by R. U. Nuts.
- *All About Explosives* by Dyna Mite
- *The Vanishing Man* by Peter Out





TECH TALK

FROM REG. – VK3CAZ

COAXIAL PHASING LINES AND THE DETERMINATION OF VELOCITY FACTOR.

It's all very well the manufacturer assuring us "hand on heart" that his coax cable has a velocity factor of such and such a value, but in actual fact the velocity factor can vary in different batches of the same cable.

One suggested method of determining the length of coax for a stub, is by using a 'dip meter' to check the resonant length of a shorted piece of the cable and comparing the measured length and the computed fraction of a wavelength.

But who has a STABLE and ACCURATE 'dip meter' on 144MHz let alone 430MHz?

If you are prepared to sacrifice about half a metre of the coax cable, there is a very accurate method of doing it.

Take any length of the cable (even the whole roll if desired) and fit a plug to one end.

Connect an SWR meter to the output of a suitable transmitter set for LOW POWER output, and to the SWR meter 'Ant. Connector' fit a 'TEE' piece adaptor.

To one arm of the 'TEE' connect a dummy load, and the length of coax to the other arm.

This will permit the SWR meter to function. It will indicate a perfect match when ever the length of the coax is an exact number of 'half waves' long, if the end is left in open circuit.

Measure back from the end of the coax, and lay a tape rule or similar measuring stick alongside the open end of the coax. Little by little cut off bits of the coax (say 20mm on 144 MHz and 10mm on 430 MHz) until a perfect match is achieved.

Note the measurement and continue cutting off little bits until another perfect match is found. **The amount of coax removed is EXACTLY half of the wavelength in the coax.**

With a good SWR meter the 'Null' is very sharp and deep.

If you play your cards right you can do the job with the connector to be used already in place, and then you only have to deal with the termination at the other end, but you have found the EXACT velocity Factor.

Of course if the integrity of the cable is of little importance, you can use a short across the cable by piercing it with a needle so as to join the two conductors, and use the same process, but that does damage the sheath of the coax.

That reminds me of a technique we used to use when I was working for a TV rental company in the UK. We also ran a 'pay TV' cable system due to poor fringe area reception, and rather than pull down the coax off 'non paying' customers we used to take an ordinary office stapler and staple through the coax in an inconspicuous place to short out the signal until they payed up!

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT ?

Germes attack at weak points - Maybe that explains a lot of head colds ?

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST - REPORT FROM IAN (VK3AXH)

The contest was held over a 24 hour period commencing at 0800 UTC (6PM local) on Saturday August 17th to 0759 UTC (5.59 PM local) on Sunday 18th August. The intention of taking part in this activity, apart from having some fun, was an attempt to involve members in a club event.

I arrived at the clubrooms around 0700 UTC (5pm local) and was met by Geoff, our President, and his XYL Val. It was not long before the rig was on and things were set up well before the commencing time. As the weather was expected to be somewhat chilly, I had brought my trusty heater with me to keep warm in the shack.

Having never taken part in a Remembrance Day Contest, it was an experience I will remember for some time. There were plenty of stations on and contacts were made on all HF bands 160 to 10 metres using SSB and CW.

At around 7.30 pm (I think) David VK3UR turned up and stayed for several hours, which was great, as at times I thought I would go mad with all the different callsigns etc. Eventually I decided to retire to the sleeping bag around 10 pm. This required laying out a camp mattress, sleeping bag and pillow on the shack floor. With the door shut and the heater going (on low) it was quite cosy.

I dragged myself out of the sleeping bag around 7.30 am and headed for the kitchen to prepare my breakfast with goodies supplied by Nola my XYL. After cooking a couple of eggs on muffins and a strong cup of coffee, I headed for the shack again and, you guessed it, there was plenty of activity. The contacts rolled along until around midday when things seemed to slow down, so back to the kitchen to heat up some dim-sims in the microwave, followed by a couple of slices of cake and some chocolate biscuits then back to the shack.

I had some more somewhat spasmodic contacts over a number of bands, but every time I tuned to a station I discovered that I had already contacted them. At this time I thought that it was time to quit. I eventually closed up shop and left a little before 2 pm, only to see Tom VK3DMK turning into the airport road as I was entering Learmonth Rd. Sorry I missed you Tom.

In all it was a great experience and could have been much more fun had there been more members involved. However I enjoyed the experience and would do it again provided others would get involved.

Summary of Contacts

Contacts were made to all VK call areas (except VK3) as well as P29 and ZL.

Band.	Mode.	Contacts.	A total of 246 contacts scoring 169 for SSB and 116 (double points for CW). 73's de Ian VK3AXH, and I look forward to YOUR company at this great event next year.
160	SSB	2	
80	SSB	60	
80	CW	24	
40	SSB	49	
40	CW	34	
20	SSB	46	
15	SSB	11	
10	SSB	2	





WORDS FROM THE WISE

I always hold hands with the XYL.
(if I let go she goes shopping !)

He who laughs last probably made
a backup disc !

Sometimes it is easier to read
between the lines than it is to
follow the story.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EDITOR:

<nda@vic.australis.com.au>



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- * Sales * Service
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*For all of your computing or
business office equipment,
call the friendly team at:*

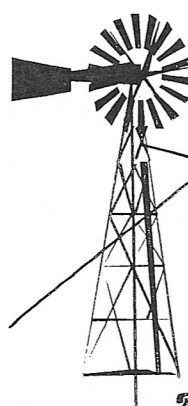
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400 gm. Aerosol and 1 ltr. Tins.

DWF for TIGHT NUTS.

73 Bob VK3PH

MOWING ROSTER



MAY	John VK3CFH	Bon VK3WBB
JUNE	Steven VK3MNA	Ian VK3CIS
JULY	Bob VK3BNC	Ian VK3HFK
AUGUST	Geoffrey VK3ADB	Kevin VK3WN
SEPTEMBER	Gordon VK3FGC	Ian VK3AXH
OCTOBER	Jeff VK3PAP	John VK3CFH
NOVEMBER	Bob VK3WBB	Steven VK3MNA
DECEMBER	Bob VK3BNC	Ian VK3HFK
JANUARY	Geoffrey VK3ADB	Gordon VK3FGC
FEBRUARY	Ian VK3AXH	Bob VK3BNC

If you have any problems with the roster, motor mower or
fuel, please contact Bob VK3BNC or Geoffrey VK3ADB.
Thanks for your help.



PLEASE NOTE

The content of this newsletter is dependent upon the contribution of articles from the members. If you have a story to tell or a project to share, please contact the editor at: 29 Lawrence St. Alfredton 3350 . (email: < nda@vic.australis.com.au >) or hand to a Committee Member at the meetings.

CUT OFF DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IS NOW THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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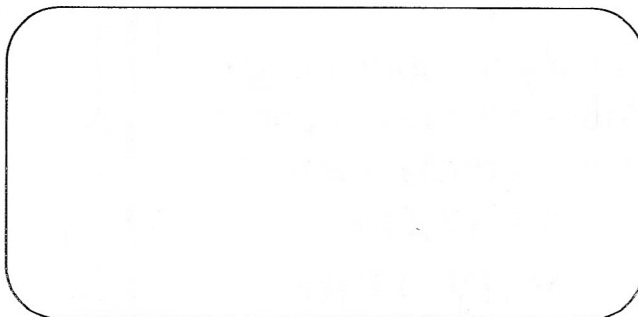
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